



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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## Hearing Tuesday on WSDA rule to prohibit sales of non-native aquatic reed sweetgrass

**OLYMPIA** – In an effort to keep Washington as free as possible from invasive aquatic plants, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is seeking to make permanent an emergency rule adopted June 21 that stops the sale of reed sweetgrass, or *Glyceria maxima*.

The proposal adds the invasive species to WSDA's list of quarantined wetland and aquatic weed plants.

A public hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sept. 27 in Room 205 at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia.

"There are a lot of wetland grasses available that look similar, but aren't a threat to the environment," said Tom Wessels, manager of the WSDA Plant Services Program that licenses the state's nurseries.

*Glyceria maxima*, also commonly known as tall manna grass, has been detected in two ponds in Snohomish County. The plant features strap-like deep green or striped leaves, spreads rapidly and has a reputation for being an aggressive invader of freshwater environments.

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, state Department of Ecology and WSDA's nursery advisory committee support the effort to quarantine the plant.

Information on the rule is available on the WSDA Web site under [Laws and Rules](#), clicking on current rulemaking and recently adopted rules. Comments may be sent to Henri Gonzales, Plant Protection Division, PO Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560, by fax to (360) 902-2094 or by e-mail to [hgonzales@agr.wa.gov](mailto:hgonzales@agr.wa.gov). The deadline is 5 p.m. Sept. 27.

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